

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) An absorbent article (40) comprising a fluid permeable cover (62), a liquid impermeable baffle (64) and an absorbent (66) situated between the cover and the baffle, the absorbent article being configured to provide a labial pad for disposition within the vestibule of a female wearer, the absorbent article further having a principal longitudinal axis, a principal transverse axis, a body-facing surface, a surface opposed to the body-facing surface, a length, a width, a thickness, first (80) and second (82) spaced apart longitudinal sides and at least one tab (94) extending outward from at least one each longitudinal side; wherein
the absorbent (66) has a maximum length (L_{max}) which is no greater than about 100 mm, measured along a line laying generally parallel to the principal longitudinal axis;
the absorbent (66) has a maximum width (W_{max}) which is no greater than about 50 mm, measured along a line laying generally parallel to the principal transverse axis;
each tab (94) has a width (w) which is no greater than about 50 mm;
the tabs (94) are configured to be grasped between the wearer's index finger and thumb, and between the wearer's middle finger and index finger;
to hold the absorbent article (40) in a configuration folded along an axis lying on or positioned parallel to the principal longitudinal axis (L) prior to disposition within the vestibule (42), and
to exert a force with a finger or fingers positioned in a recess (92) formed by the folded absorbent article, to dispose the folded article within the vestibule (42) by the wearer.
2. (currently amended) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the tab has sufficient dimensions to allow a user to grasp the tab and maintain control of the absorbent article during disposition of the absorbent article within the vestibule said recess (92) protects a finger of the wearer from soiling when the absorbent article is disposed within the vestibule (42).
3. (original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the tab comprises a fluid permeable material.
4. (original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the fluid permeable cover extends outward from at least one of the longitudinal sides to form the tab.

5. (original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the tab comprises an absorbent material.
6. (original) The absorbent article of claim 5, wherein the absorbent material of the tab further comprises a superabsorbent polymer.
7. (original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the absorbent extends outward from at least one of the longitudinal sides to form the tab.
8. (original) The absorbent article of claim 7, wherein the absorbent further comprises a superabsorbent polymer.
9. (original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the tab comprises a liquid impermeable material.
10. (original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the liquid impermeable baffle extends outward from at least one of the longitudinal sides to form the tab.
11. (original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the absorbent further comprises a superabsorbent polymer.
12. (currently amended) An absorbent article (40) comprising a liquid impermeable baffle (64) and an absorbent (66), the absorbent article being configured to provide a labial pad for disposition within the vestibule of a female wearer, the absorbent article further having a principal longitudinal axis, a principal transverse axis, a body-facing surface, a surface opposed to the body-facing surface, a length, a width, a thickness, first (80) and second (82) spaced apart longitudinal sides and at least one tab (94) extending outward from at least one each longitudinal side; wherein the absorbent (66) has a maximum length (L_{max}) which is no greater than about 100 mm, measured along a line laying generally parallel to the principal longitudinal axis;
the absorbent (66) has a maximum width (W_{max}) which is no greater than about 50 mm, measured along a line laying generally parallel to the principal transverse axis;
each tab (94) has a width (w) which is no greater than about 50 mm;
the tabs (94) are configured to be grasped between the wearer's fingers;

to hold the absorbent article (40) in a configuration folded along an axis lying on or positioned parallel to the principal longitudinal axis (L) prior to disposition within the vestibule (42), and
to exert a force with a finger or fingers positioned in a recess (92) formed by the folded absorbent article, to dispose the folded article within the vestibule (42) by the wearer.

13. (currently amended) The absorbent article of claim 12, wherein ~~the tab has sufficient dimensions to allow a user to grasp the tab and maintain control of the absorbent article during disposition within the vestibule~~ said recess (92) protects a finger of the wearer from soiling when the absorbent article is disposed within the vestibule (42).

14. (original) The absorbent article of claim 12, wherein the tab comprises a fluid permeable material.

15. (currently amended) The absorbent article of claim 12, wherein the absorbent article further comprises a fluid permeable cover (62), and the fluid permeable cover extends outward from the longitudinal sides to form the tabs.

16. (currently amended) The absorbent article of claim 12 wherein the tabs (94) are configured to be grasped between the wearer's index finger and thumb, and between the wearer's middle finger and index finger. 15, wherein the fluid permeable cover extends outward from at least one of the longitudinal sides to form the tab.

17. (original) The absorbent article of claim 12, wherein the tab comprises an absorbent material.

18. (original) The absorbent article of claim 17, wherein the absorbent material of the tab further comprises a superabsorbent polymer.

19. (original) The absorbent article of claim 12, wherein the absorbent extends outward from at least one of the longitudinal sides to form the tab.

20. (original) The absorbent article of claim 19, wherein the absorbent further comprises a superabsorbent polymer.

21. (original) The absorbent article of claim 12, wherein the tab comprises a liquid impermeable material.

22. (original) The absorbent article of claim 12, wherein the liquid impermeable baffle extends outward from at least one of the longitudinal sides to form the tab.

23. (original) The absorbent article of claim 12, wherein the absorbent further comprises a superabsorbent polymer.

24. (currently amended) An absorbent article (40) comprising an absorbent (66), the absorbent article being configured to provide a labial pad for disposition within the vestibule of a female wearer, the absorbent article further having a principal longitudinal axis, a principal transverse axis, a body-facing surface, a surface opposed to the body-facing surface, a length, a width, a thickness, first (80) and second (82) spaced apart longitudinal sides and at least one tab (94) extending outward from at least one each longitudinal side; wherein the absorbent (66) has a maximum length (L_{max}) which is no greater than about 100 mm, measured along a line laying generally parallel to the principal longitudinal axis; the absorbent (66) has a maximum width (W_{max}) which is no greater than about 50 mm, measured along a line laying generally parallel to the principal transverse axis; each tab (94) has a width (w) which is no greater than about 50 mm; the tabs (94) are configured to be grasped between the wearer's fingers; to hold the absorbent article (40) in a configuration folded along an axis lying on or positioned parallel to the principal longitudinal axis (L) prior to disposition within the vestibule (42), and to exert a force with a finger or fingers positioned in a recess (92) formed by the folded absorbent article, to dispose the folded article within the vestibule (42) by the wearer.

25. (currently amended) The absorbent article of claim 24, wherein the tab has sufficient dimensions to allow a user to grasp the tab and maintain control of the absorbent article during disposition within the vestibule said recess (92) protects a finger of the wearer from soiling when the absorbent article is disposed within the vestibule (42).

26. (original) The absorbent article of claim 24, wherein the tab comprises a fluid permeable material.

27. (original) The absorbent article of claim 24, wherein the absorbent further comprises a fluid permeable cover (62).
28. (original) The absorbent article of claim 27, wherein the fluid permeable cover extends outward from at least one of the longitudinal sides to form the tab.
29. (original) The absorbent article of claim 24, wherein the tab comprises an absorbent material.
30. (original) The absorbent article of claim 29, wherein the absorbent material of the tab further comprises a superabsorbent polymer.
31. (original) The absorbent article of claim 24, wherein the absorbent extends outward from at least one of the longitudinal sides to form the tab.
32. (original) The absorbent article of claim 31, wherein the absorbent further comprises a superabsorbent polymer.
33. (original) The absorbent article of claim 24, wherein the tab comprises a liquid impermeable material.
34. (currently amended) The absorbent article of claim 24, wherein the absorbent article further comprises a liquid impermeable baffle (64); and the liquid impermeable baffle extends outward from the longitudinal sides to form the tabs.
35. (currently amended) The absorbent article of claim 24 wherein the tabs (94) are configured to be grasped between the wearer's index finger and thumb, and between the wearer's middle finger and index finger. 34, wherein the liquid impermeable baffle extends outward from at least one of the longitudinal sides to form the tab.
36. (original) The absorbent article of claim 24, wherein the absorbent further comprises a superabsorbent polymer.